

A Safer Missouri and the Standard of Excellence in Corrections

Missouri Department of Corrections

Missouri Reentry Process Report to the Governor 2016

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Introduction

97% of Missouri incarcerated offenders will be released back into the community. The most recent Missouri Department of Corrections recidivism rate is 43.9% for all releases and 36.9% for first time releases for offenders released in 2014 (as calculated on June 30, 2016). Department of Corrections and partnering agencies continue in working towards reducing this rate of recidivism further. As stated in previous years, for each new crime there is a new victim and new costs to Missouri's communities. The Missouri Reentry Process continues to work with partners to change this course and enhance reentry efforts so that offenders are better prepared to reintegrate back into the community and to be more successful in their community supervision and to lead positive, productive lives. The Department of Corrections continues to be devoted to building on the groundwork of the collaborative efforts that have taken place since the Missouri Reentry Process Initiative began.

The Missouri Reentry Process Steering Team continues to meet regularly to work toward integrating successful offender reentry principles and practices into state agencies and communities throughout Missouri, resulting in partnerships that enhance offender self-sufficiency, reduce recidivism, and improve public safety. The report to follow provides the history of the Missouri Reentry Process, a summary of the accomplishments made through collaborative initiatives in 2016, a summary of challenges the team faced during the year, a discussion of outcomes to date, and a brief summary of the work that the team will pursue in 2017.

History

In 2002, Missouri was the first of eight states chosen by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) as a demonstration site for the Transition from Prison to Community Model, which was renamed the Missouri Reentry Process. This model promotes state and local collaboration and provides a philosophical framework for “stakeholder agencies” to promote common interests, integrate policies and services and improve the overall transition process of those offenders leaving prison and returning to Missouri communities.

Recognizing the importance of continuing and strengthening reentry initiatives, Governor Matt Blunt signed Executive Order 05-33 on September 21, 2005. Executive Order 05-33 established a state-level MRP Steering Team which included state representatives from the Department of Corrections, Department of Mental Health, Department of Revenue, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Social Services, Office of the State Court Administrator, Department of Economic Development, and the Department of Health and Senior Services. Local community representatives included law enforcement, the faith-based community, crime victims, and service/treatment providers.

The model indicates the Department of Corrections alone cannot effectively address all issues offenders face upon release into the community. Therefore, by forming strategic and tactical partnerships that enhance offender self-sufficiency, reduce re-incarceration and improve public safety, the mission of the Missouri Reentry Process Steering Team is making a difference in the number of successful offenders in our communities.

The Team recognizes that without assistance, many ex-offenders will fail at leading law-abiding lives when they return home. This can result in new crimes being committed with a huge cost to taxpayers and their communities. Through identified shared resources, the team continues to become more

knowledgeable on barriers faced by offenders in their transition back to the community and to identify and implement strategies to keep them from returning to prison.

As directed by Executive Order 09-16 signed by Governor Jay Nixon on March 23rd, 2009, the Missouri Department of Corrections continues to lead an interagency steering team for the Missouri Reentry Process.

Accomplishments

1. The Missouri Reentry Process (MRP) continues as a national model

The Missouri Department of Corrections, along with the MRP Steering Team, has provided consultation on best practices for many states throughout the past several years. Our Department representatives, as well as other members of the Missouri Reentry Process Steering Team, have assisted numerous states in reentry initiatives and efforts. The Department of Corrections and members of the MRP Steering Team continue to be called upon by other states and organizations for presentations, sharing of best practices and brainstorming of solutions to barriers. In the past year, we have assisted California, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, Pennsylvania and Tennessee in expanding knowledge regarding Missouri reentry efforts and partnerships to assist in more successful offender transition. Information was shared in the areas of Transitional Housing Unit benefits and challenges, Reentry Simulations, the benefits and challenges of Reentry Intake Panels, the Missouri Identification process for offenders and the partnerships involved, the pre-release Medicaid, SSI/SSDI application process, the Missouri and out-of-state Birth Certificate process, assessments, community partners and services and overall reentry efforts in Missouri.

2. Missouri Puppies for Parole continues to surpass expectations

Since the inception of the Missouri Puppies for Parole program in 2010 as a restorative justice initiative, it has adopted more than 4,313 dogs and expanded to 19 correctional centers in Missouri. In 2015, the program, which does not use any taxpayer money in an effort to help find suitable homes for unadoptable dogs while teaching offenders about compassion and altruistic behavior, was chosen as a semifinalist in the prestigious Innovations in American Government Awards competition sponsored by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation in the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. With this prestigious award, the program continues to surpass its early expectations of reducing euthanasia among dogs while offering positive offender programming by creating a more positive and safer institutional environment. Offenders enrolled in the program take pride when the dogs they have trained are adopted, especially when those have been specifically trained for individuals with special needs, long-term care facilities, and veterans' homes, facilities within the Department of Mental Health or other organizations that utilize canine therapy. The program's role in the reentry process is important because offenders in the program can earn a certificate in animal handling from the U.S. Department of Labor that is recognized in all 50 states. Several offender handlers have taken advantage of that aspect of the program upon their release from incarceration, as well as the value of working together with other individuals within a group to accomplish a set of goals.

3. MRP Community Teams expanded across the State of Missouri

Assisting local communities with strategic reentry initiatives continues to be vital in overcoming barriers to reintegration for ex-offenders. Local MRP teams across the State of Missouri consisting of community organizations, local and state agencies, faith-based organizations, Probation and Parole staff, Division of Adult Institutions staff, local law enforcement, judiciary representatives, local businesses, treatment

providers, victims, offender family members and ex-offenders continue to address reentry efforts and overcome barriers. The collaborative work addresses housing, employment, transportation, substance use, medical and behavioral health treatment needs to make local communities stronger and safer for the public. The activities and accomplishments of the many MRP teams are collected each fiscal year and published in the Community Activity Report. These teams planned and participated in twenty-six local community reentry conferences and resource fairs across the State of Missouri connecting offenders with local reentry service providers and promoting collaborative reentry work among providers.

4. Department of Corrections partnered with the U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Program

This initiative has resulted in Missouri Vocational Enterprises (MVE) positions qualifying for official apprenticeships. Approximately fifty (50) positions within MVE qualify for the U.S. Department of Labor's Apprenticeship Program. Since 2009, MVE has issued 1378 Certificates to offenders that are recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor. MVE has 366 offenders currently pursuing an apprenticeship.

5. Department of Corrections partnered with reentry providers to implement U.S. Department of Labor apprenticeship programs in the community

The Missouri Department of Corrections, in collaboration with the Fathers' Support Center in St. Louis, has identified high risk-high need offenders who need to secure training and certification for employment in the industry and manufacturing fields. A Department of Labor grant, secured by the Fathers' Support Center, provides the means to assist offenders in securing fulltime employment and to reduce recidivism. This collaborative effort started two years ago and will continue through 2019. 67% of those offenders who secured industry-recognized credentials through the program have been employed with a 5% recidivism rate. This collaborative effort started three years ago and will continue through 2019.

6. Department of Corrections partnered with Missouri Highway Patrol for the written CDL exam for a Commercial Vehicle Operator Training Program

In 2015, DORS was able to purchase, through canteen funds, a commercial truck driving simulator. Recently, the trucking industry has begun to experience a shortage in trained commercial vehicle operators. The American Trucking Association data indicates roughly 25,000 trained drivers are needed to fill the existing vacancies. As a result, the trucking industry is willing to hire offenders to fill these positions if an offender's convictions do not restrict him from being able to obtain insurance coverage with the trucking company.

Based on the industry need, in March 2015, DORS/Education began offering a Commercial Vehicle Operator training class at the Northeast Correctional Center (NECC) in Bowling Green, Missouri. The goal of the program is to provide learning outcomes that will afford offender students the opportunity to work towards acquiring a commercial driver's license (CDL) and employment in the trucking industry upon their release from incarceration. The program utilizes a state of the art "simulator" similar to those currently being used by the trucking industry to train their drivers. The simulator is manipulated by the course instructor who holds a current CDL license and a teaching certificate with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The modules of instruction include completing a vehicle point checklist, pre-trip inspections, operation of a super 10 transmission and driving in diverse settings, to include interstate highways, light city traffic, rural roads, and a variety of weather related conditions. The curriculum is sanctioned by the U.S. Department of Labor.

In 2016, the program took another step forward when DORS partnered with the Missouri Highway Patrol. In March 2016, the Missouri Highway Patrol - Troop C proctored the first CDL written exam at NECC for the students who successfully completed the Commercial Vehicle Operator class. Students who are near release will be allowed the opportunity to take the written exam while incarcerated and they will subsequently have 12 months to pursue the driving portion of their training in the community. During 2016, DORS staff have established relationships with trucking companies and have helped secure employment for offenders upon release (primarily with Witte Brothers Trucking). Recently, individuals from Witte Brothers Trucking came to the Northeast Correctional Center to meet with offenders and provide employment applications. DORS staff is in the process of establishing additional connections to employers across the state. In addition, as mentioned in the closing of this report, DORS is in the process of trying to obtain an additional simulator through grant funding.

7. Department of Corrections partnered with State Technical College of Missouri to secure industry recognized employment credentials

Through the Missouri Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (MOSTEM) program, incarcerated offenders are able to receive training in fields which have been strategically identified by the Missouri Department of Economic Development - Division of Workforce Development as labor targets. A key feature of MOSTEM is serving ex-offenders as they leave correctional facilities across the state and reenter society. The project will also serve unemployed, dislocated, and incumbent workers needing skills for employment.

8. Department of Corrections partnered with Department of Economic Development - Division of Workforce Development, State Technical College of Missouri, the Cole County Certified Work Ready Community Committee and the Central Region Workforce Investment Board to pilot and expand the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) testing

In 2015, State Technical College of Missouri and the Cole County Certified Work Ready Community Committee began testing incarcerated offenders at the Algoa Correctional Center to secure the National Career Readiness Certificate prior to release. Since the implementation of the paper-pencil test, the overall pass rate for the NCRC has been over 92.7%, and the pass rate of those who have not secured a high school diploma or HiSET is 78.5%. In 2016, the program was expanded with the assistance of the Missouri Department of Economic Development - Division of Workforce Development and the Central Region Workforce Investment Board to include the Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center and the Boonville Correctional Center. Those taking the test while incarcerated are also being enrolled in the Missouri Job Center database which will assist in connecting offenders with employers after release.

9. Department of Corrections partnered with the Missouri Department of Economic Development - Division of Workforce Development to address pre and post-release services

Representatives from the Department of Economic Development - Division of Workforce Development enter correctional facilities to provide appropriate career training services, including labor exchange services, as defined by the Wagner-Peyser Act, and employment and training services in accordance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) to incarcerated offenders. The Division of Workforce Development utilizes the Next Generation Career Center model, which allows the job seeker to enhance interviewing skills and resume building at minimum and medium security prisons. Offenders are connected with local Missouri Career Center staff to secure additional training and job search assistance prior to release.

The Division of Workforce Development and Workforce Investment Boards are also offering “ex-offender” workshops to assist offenders with resume development, interview skills, soft skills, securing a job, and maintaining a job. These services are offered to incarcerated offenders, as well as offenders under supervision. Local Workforce Investment Boards are also organizing, with assistance from Probation and Parole District Offices, community job fairs for probationers and parolees under supervision.

The Division of Workforce Development and the 14 Workforce Investment Boards are also looking to assist offenders in securing employment. Specific focus is given to assist offenders in finding employment in agriculture. The Agricultural Employment Services program is utilizing the Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker Program, Foreign Labor Certification Program and other Agriculture Services that includes all other agricultural farm, ranch or production employers and employment opportunities to assist ex-offenders. The services include: job-searching assistance, resume assistance, career counseling, training opportunities, skills assessments, job fair access, job referrals, and agricultural labor law information.

10. Department of Corrections partnered with Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to pilot a program for offenders with disabilities to obtain employment upon release

The Department of Corrections - Division of Offender Rehabilitative Services (DORS) Special Education program at the South Central Correctional Center is partnering with Vocational Rehabilitation to pilot a program designed to assist offenders with disabilities find employment after release and transition into their communities. Beginning six months prior to release, the Special Education staff and a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor provide career counseling and coordinate services with other agencies through interviews with the eligible offenders. This ensures all special needs are identified which allows appointments and applicable services to be initiated as soon as possible following release.

11. Department of Corrections partnered with the Department of Social Services to implement and enhance the pre-release Medicaid application process

This process allows the Department of Corrections staff to assist offenders in applying for Medicaid prior to release. The targeted groups are age 65 and older, pregnant, serious/chronic medical or mental health issues, developmentally disabled, blind, or under age 19. The offenders will be notified within 3 days of their release from prison if they qualify for Medicaid benefits and will have access to both medical and mental health services without interruption of treatment plans. Department of Corrections staff submitted 682 pre-release applications in 2016.

12. Department of Corrections partnered with Social Security Administration to implement and enhance the pre-release Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) application or reinstatement process

This process allows Missouri Department of Corrections staff to assist disabled offenders to apply for benefits prior to release. The process can also assist offenders in getting benefits reinstated upon release. An application filed before release allows SSA to make a determination based on what the situation will be after the offender is released. This allows eligible individuals to receive payments shortly after they reenter the community. Department of Corrections staff submitted 421 pre-release referrals in 2016.

13. Department of Corrections partnered with the Department of Social Services - Family Support Division to implement a personalized case management system to address child support issues

Through collaboration with Department of Corrections and Department of Social Services - Family Support Division, four pilot projects promote representatives from the Family Support Division (FSD) of the Department of Social Services to enter correctional facilities and make monthly presentations to offenders who are in various stages of pre-release. Offenders who need more personalized assistance in addressing specific child support issues are allowed to meet with Child Support Enforcement representatives to begin planning and strategizing for reentry. The meetings are held in person or via video teleconference. This allows for the direct communication between FSD representatives and offenders, for payment plans to be established or modified, and for the coordination of future meetings and hearings. The initial pilot project began at the Alcoa Correctional Center in 2015. Three new pilot programs were implemented in 2016, including work at the Kansas City Reentry Center, Boonville Correctional Center and Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center. FSD has also entered into a pilot project with Powerhouse Community Development Corporation (PCDC) to provide child support case management services. PCDC has an agreement with the Department of Corrections to provide services for over 160 ex-offenders annually.

14. Department of Corrections partnered with Missouri Veterans Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs

Incarcerated Veterans Reentry Coordinators provide educational and informative presentations to incarcerated veterans during the transitional phase of reentry before reentering Missouri communities. Incarcerated veterans are informed and educated on the services and resources available to them after release, as well as provided the opportunity to complete applications for benefits and services before release. The partnerships ensure that incarcerated veterans are able to receive the reentry services necessary for successful transition into Missouri communities.

15. Department of Corrections partnered with Pathways Community Health to promote Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) programming

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) works towards ending homelessness. It is a community-based veteran's assistance effort by Pathways Community Health staff. An Employment/Outreach Specialist attends Resource Fairs offered in Department of Corrections Institutional Facilities (Alcoa Correctional Center, Boonville Correctional Center, Fulton Reception and Diagnostic Center and Tipton Correctional Center) on a routine basis to determine eligibility for services.

16. Department of Corrections partnered with Department of Economic Development - Division of Workforce Development to assist veterans

The Missouri Department of Economic Development - Division of Workforce Development has implemented the Missouri Veteran Reentry Program. The primary mission of the program is to assist veterans who are incarcerated within the Missouri Department of Corrections to prepare them for reentry back to society and once released, assist them in a smooth and timely transition back into the workforce. The program consists of three phases, including Veteran Court, Pre-Release training and Post-Release Services. The Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist will work with veterans one-on-one to provide the tools they need to obtain and retain employment to assist with successful reintegration.

17. Department of Corrections partnered with the Department of Health and Senior Services, Social Security Administration and the Department of Revenue to assist offenders in obtaining birth certificates, Social Security replacement cards and Missouri Nondriver License Identification Cards prior to release

Offenders who are released from prison with proper identification are able to obtain employment, rent an apartment or apply for benefits with fewer barriers. The Department of Corrections has established partnerships with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Social Security Administration and the Missouri Department of Revenue in order for staff to assist offenders in obtaining the necessary documentation to secure birth certificates, Social Security replacement cards and Missouri Nondriver License Identification Cards before release. In 2016, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services secured 3,419 birth certificates for incarcerated offenders. In 2016, the Missouri Department of Revenue secured 1356 Missouri Nondriver License Identification Cards for offenders prior to release. These documents allow reentering citizens a smoother transition to life after incarceration.

In addition to these partnerships, 1134 out of state birth certificate applications were processed by DOC staff in 2016.

18. Department of Corrections partnered with the Department of Mental Health to provide continuity of care for offenders with mental illness

For offenders with severe mental illness, Department of Corrections mental health staff, through the Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Healthcare, link offenders to mental health services in the community where they will be residing. Department of Corrections mental health staff conducts pre-release screenings and share assessment and treatment information with the receiving community mental health center. The Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) Offender Program helps guarantee that the most severely mentally ill will have access to treatment, medication, and community support services. Another initiative, the Community Mental Health Treatment program (CMHT), allows Probation and Parole Officers to refer offenders under supervision to community mental health centers for treatment. The CMHT program provides limited subsidies to ensure access to treatment with the goal of reducing recidivism and improving functioning within the community. Both of these programs operate at no cost to the taxpayers, with funding provided from supervision fees paid by all offenders on probation and/or parole.

19. Department of Corrections partnered with the Department of Mental Health to provide pre-release medication to reduce risk of relapse for offenders completing institutional treatment and who are returning to the St. Louis area

Missouri was the first state to provide the opportunity for pre-release medication assisted recovery in state prison settings. Women's Eastern Treatment Center (located in WERDCC), Chillicothe Women's Treatment Center (located in CCC), Cremer Therapeutic Community Center (CTCC), Ozark Correctional Center (OCC), Maryville Treatment Center (MTC), Northeast Treatment Center (located in NECC) and Farmington Treatment Center (located in FCC) and Western Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center are providing to offenders in treatment a unique opportunity to address their opiate and alcohol addictions. Eligible offenders at these treatment centers who will be released to St. Louis and Kansas City may volunteer to participate in one of several Medication Assisted Treatment projects. Offenders in institutional treatment are screened for opiate and alcohol addictions, as well as mental health and medical eligibility. Those who wish to participate and are eligible receive a pre-release injection of Vivitrol (an injectable form of Naltrexone) and then continue with medication assisted recovery and outpatient treatment in St. Louis and Kansas City. The projects are a culmination of effective partnerships among the Department of Corrections, Gateway Foundation Inc, the Department of Mental Health, Corizon

Healthcare within the institutions, and New Beginnings Alt-Care, Gateway Free & Clean, Heartland Center for Behavioral Change Free & Clean and Rediscover Alt-Care. The funding for this program will expire at the end of fiscal year 2016 with hopes of continued funding. In 2015 the Bureau of Justice Assistance recognized that Missouri was one of three states leading the country in programs with pre-release medication assisted treatment for state prisoners. Missouri, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts were featured in a training film about medication assisted treatment that was released nationally.

In fiscal year 2016, 3,318 offenders in institutional treatment centers were identified, screened and received education on Medication Assisted Treatment. Six hundred and eleven offenders were found to be eligible for the project based on initial screening criteria. Three hundred and five volunteered to participate in the project and the majority of those received pre-release case management services. Within the group, 121 offenders received an injection of pre-release Vivitrol. One hundred percent of the offenders with the pre-release injection were engaged in outpatient treatment services.

20. Department of Corrections partnered with the Department of Mental Health to identify a new substance abuse treatment service referral process for high risk individuals

A referral process was implemented in 2012 for individuals under supervision in the community and those completing institutional substance abuse treatment. The offenders served by this referral process will receive an expedited clinical assessment and placement in an appropriate level of care with a community provider. Research indicates that high risk offenders who receive immediate, ongoing services in the community have a greater likelihood for successful reentry. From January 2015 through December of 2016, there were 858 high risk offenders scheduled for appointments with community providers before those offenders were released from prison to minimize the gap between release and access to services. Department of Mental Health data, for the individuals graduating from institutional treatment, reveals that this referral process has reduced, by a few weeks or more, the waiting period for community services for these high risk offenders. Since the inception of the project 1,830 high risk offenders graduating from institutional treatment centers received continuing care appointments.

21. Department of Corrections partnered with the Department of Mental Health, Probation and Parole and SEMO Behavioral Health to implement a pilot program that reduces wait time between the releases from institutional treatment to community treatment

The NIATx integrated handoff pilot was implemented in 2013 and includes 3 District Probation & Parole offices (D12, D25, and D11). Offenders are referred to group education services at offices for SEMO Behavioral Health. The pilot allows the offenders to become engaged in aftercare shortly after release and provides access to support services while waiting for an assessment for treatment services. In May 2016, District 3 was added to the project. A total of 138 offenders were referred to continuing care groups in the specified areas and accessed those groups' services within one week after their releases. Research indicates that offenders who receive immediate, ongoing services in the community have a greater likelihood for successful reentry. Results of this pilot for calendar 2016 indicate that 88% of the offenders in the pilot were doing well in the community.

22. Department of Corrections partnered with Corizon Health and Rx Outreach to aid in Prescription Maintenance

Per the offender healthcare contract, offenders leave MO DOC with a 30-day supply of medications. However, due to reduced community resources and longer wait times, they frequently run out of meds before they can see a provider - especially a psychiatrist. This has been a longstanding problem with logistics, liabilities, costs, and other barriers preventing a solution.

To address this, healthcare contractor Corizon established a relationship with Rx Outreach, a national non-profit pharmacy based in St. Louis. The resulting “Healthy Transitions” program, developed in partnership with DORS and P&P, will provide additional 30- and 60-day prescription coverage as needed. This effort will fill a critical need in offender reentry and continuity of care. For April through December 2016, 2,192 prescriptions were provided free of charge to 477 people leaving Missouri correctional facilities to reside in the St. Louis metropolitan region. This is an average of 4.6 prescriptions per person. 45% of participants received mental health medication. At this time, the program is available to offenders returning to the St. Louis area, with hopes of expanding to other areas of the state in 2017.

23. Department of Corrections partnered with Corizon Health in Difficult Discharge Planning

The Department of Corrections and our contracted healthcare provider, Corizon, know the importance of reentry and the need to prepare incarcerated individuals for return to the community. In an effort to equip all offenders with the tools which will result in successful reintegration, Corizon Health has created specific strategies that are regularly assessed and updated with regards to reentry. These objectives have ranged from initiating processes for inpatient Medicaid applications to working with medically and mentally complex individuals to ensure continuity of care and appropriate placement upon release. Difficult discharge planning includes identifying offenders that will face numerous obstacles upon release such as mental illness and no family support and developing a safety net through partnerships which include psychiatry appointments, housing, etc.

To reduce recidivism, exclusive programs were created specifically for the Department by the contracted vendor. Items include quick reference manuals for each site, “From Corrections to Community” pamphlet, and Corizon Health designed a web site exclusive to MO DOC for former offenders and their families and our staff to utilize to identify resources all across the state (www.CorizonReentry.com). This website assists former offenders, institutional staff, probation and parole staff and offender’s families with access to needed medical, dental and mental health services. It also provides a comprehensive listing of food, clothing, shelter, education, faith based organizations and veteran’s services.

24. Department of Corrections - Division of Offender Rehabilitative Services (DORS) partnered with Corizon Health in the development of a program for mentally ill offenders residing in restrictive housing

In an effort to provide effective behavioral-health services to offenders in restrictive housing, the Division of Offender Rehabilitative Services (DORS) requested Corizon to develop a workbook-based, cognitive-behavioral treatment program for mentally ill offenders. Corizon developed the E.A.G.L.E Program: Emotions, Attitudes, Growth, Learning, Excelling. This is an intensive in-cell cognitive-behavioral treatment program designed to improve and enhance communication, thinking processes, positive reaction to anger, self-esteem, behaviors, and an overall understanding of self through various topics in addition to overall living conditions. The program can be customized to different learning styles and abilities and is also appropriate for offenders with no previous mental health needs.

25. Department of Corrections partnered with the Department of Mental Health through the Missouri Governor’s Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH) to develop a website for suitable housing resources

The Missouri Governor’s Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH) and the Missouri Reentry Process (MRP) steering team created the Joint Committee for Reentry Housing between the Missouri Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to address the issue of assisting justice-involved Missourians in locating suitable housing. The Joint Committee has developed a web-

based interactive map that will assist caseworkers in finding housing resources for ex-offenders. Caseworkers understand the resources in their communities, but as ex-offenders look to move outside the area, it can be time consuming connecting to those resources. The requirements/disqualifiers for the numerous housing programs vary across the state and searching for that one housing resource to fit the ex-offender's need can be challenging. This new resource will be beneficial to both offenders and staff. More than 110 validated housing resources throughout the state have been entered into the website to date.

26. Department of Corrections partnered with the Missouri Housing Development Commission, Department of Social Services, Department of Health and Senior Services and Department of Mental Health on a Coordinated Entry Network Initiative (CENI)

Through a Coordinated Entry System process individuals experiencing a housing crisis are quickly identified, assessed, referred and connected to housing or homelessness assistance. In this partnership, two regions, which include the counties Dent, Douglas, Howell, Laclede, Oregon, Ozark, Shannon, Texas, Wright, Bates, Benton, Cass, Henry, Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis, Saline and St. Clair, were identified to participate in the Coordinated Initiative Pilot Program to reduce duplication of services by providing a coordinated response to housing needs. The goals are to help provide a more efficient process for those experiencing homelessness or a housing crisis to access the homeless service delivery system, identify cross-sections of service utilizers between the partnering agencies and provide data to better understand housing services needs within Missouri.

27. Department of Corrections contracts with Kansas City Crime Commission

The Second Chance Risk Reduction Center provides contracted services during post-release community reintegration, for support to offenders returning to the Kansas City area. These services include individualized Evidence Based Practice assistance from experienced case managers. Since July 2013, case management services in the areas of employment, housing, and personalized goal planning have been provided to 834 offenders, with 547 gaining part-time or full time employment. The program has a 6% recidivism rate with only 48 returning to custody or absconding from supervision while in the program. Clients are also provided access to classroom training regarding social maturity, workforce readiness and obtaining referral assistance to other critically needed resources such as substance abuse treatment, general and mental health services, cognitive behavioral training, legal and family reconciliation matters, etc. Staff meetings with Parole Officers, the participating client, the Second Chance Staff and other relevant parties are regularly scheduled to assist in client success. The Chief of Police for the Kansas City Police Department supports the program and plays a vital role in the Second Chance Advisory Board.

28. Department of Corrections partnered with the Kansas City No Violence Alliance to assist offenders in obtaining services, needs, and support in an effort to reduce violent crime and recidivism

The Kansas City No Violence Alliance (KC NoVA) is a collaboration of law enforcement, community leaders and others working to reduce group and gang related violence in Kansas City. The effort uses law enforcement intelligence to identify persons at risk of being a victim or suspect of violence, mostly due to their group association. The violent groups identified are responsible for 50% – 60% of the homicides annually in Kansas City. The Department of Correction's Board of Probation and Parole, Division of Adult Institutions (DAI), Office of The Inspector General, and Central Office Reentry Unit, through the partnership with KC NoVA, have engaged 350+ violent group members under Department of Corrections' authority and developed individualized plans to address criminogenic needs. Through KC NoVA, each Offender is assigned a Client Advocate to help navigate obstacles and provide support while they are working toward becoming a productive citizen. KC NoVA is actively servicing 135 violent group

members, thus reducing violent behavior and recidivism. In addition to those offenders on supervision, the partnership also addresses incarcerated offenders who will soon return to the communities they once left behind. Offenders released from prison, when offered a support team, are less likely to re-offend. The Department of Corrections has established a partnership with KC NoVA Reentry to help guide offenders through the reentry process and support them with lifestyle changes. The NoVA Reentry Team consists of a Detective from the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department, a Department Of Corrections Parole Officer, and a Client Advocate from KC NoVA's Social Services. The team completes Home Plan Investigations, develops relationships with the offender's support group, engages the offender prior to release to help plan a future for success, and continues guidance and support through various means post-release. The NoVA Reentry Project began in 2015, allowing the NoVA Reentry team access inside DAI facilities. Since inception, the team has had the opportunity to engage more than 100 Offenders at 18 different institutions. The ultimate goal is to prepare these Offenders to stay safe, alive and out of prison.

29. Department of Corrections partnered with Connections to Success to implement a pre-release and post-release mentoring program in Jackson County

Connections to Success has promoted more effective and successful reentry for formerly incarcerated adults reentering Jackson County through the implementation of a mentoring program. Through the utilization of trained mentors, offenders who are ninety days from release are matched with a mentor who will provide reentry services, emotional support, and encouragement prior to reentering society. The mentoring will continue post-release to provide additional encouragement and emotional support which is designed to enhance public safety and reduce recidivism. Over 45 approved mentors are providing pre-release and post-release mentoring supports to offenders reentering local communities in the Jackson County area. Nine institutions are actively participating in this project, as well as six Probation and Parole Districts.

30. Department of Corrections partnered with Concordance Academy of Leadership to implement a holistic and integrated reentry services

Concordance Academy offers holistic, integrated and evidence-informed reentry services by delivering an all-encompassing set of services that target key socio-economic, criminogenic and justice-involvement related factors. The Academy's reentry services begin six months pre-release and continue one year after release. Services are provided to participants who are releasing to St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and St. Charles County. Each enrollee initially receives a bio-psycho-social assessment and, from there, creates a "life plan" with the Academy team that focuses on three core areas that address a multitude of issues, through a series of interventions: Behavioral Health & Wellness (cognitive and relational skills, mental health, wellness, and substance use disorder treatment); Education & Employment (education and job readiness, employment support and placement); and Community & Life Skills (housing assistance, legal services, family reunification, community involvement, and spiritual support). Upon release, a participant receives an intensive period of services to assist with the immediate impact of reentry. After the intensive period, Concordance Academy places each participant who can work in a job in the Concordance Academy's own Employment Agency. This program started in 2016 and currently serves offenders in three institutions (ERDCC, MECC, and WERDCC). In 2017, it is expected to serve approximately 250 offenders pre-release.

31. Department of Corrections contracts with Big Brothers Big Sisters - Amachi

For 12 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters has been building a systemic relationship with the Missouri Department of Corrections around children of incarcerated parents. Through an initiative called Big Brothers Big Sisters Amachi Missouri (BBBSAM), current inmates are able to refer their children to the Big Brothers Big Sisters program – thereby aiming to break the cycle of incarceration by providing

responsible mentors for their kids. 100% of Amachi Littles avoided the Juvenile Justice system. In 2015, 1,038 children affected by incarceration were served statewide and 99% of the Amachi Missouri matches celebrated their one year anniversary. In addition to being committed to NO ENTRY of Little Brothers and Little Sisters into the correctional system, BBBSAM is committed to NO RETURN of parents to prisons.

32. Department of Corrections partnered with the Department of Social Services, Family and Community Trust (FACT) and ARCHS for sponsorship of the annual Missouri Reentry Process (MRP) Conference

The annual MRP Conference continues to benefit from the collaboration among the Department of Social Services, Family and Community Trust (FACT), Area Resources for Community and Human Services (ARCHS), and Department of Corrections that jointly plans, promotes, and implements this professional development opportunity. This year marked the 11th anniversary of the conference, which started in St. Louis in 2005 with only 75 participants. The November 2016 conference celebrated the 10th anniversary of MRP teams being active throughout Missouri and featured testimonials from ex-offenders served by local MRP teams. The conference featured 354 attendees, 53 presenters, 8 group sessions, 24 breakout sessions, 3,540 individual training hours, and 10 exhibitors. 98% of participants said they learned things that will improve their work, and 97% said the conference met their professional development needs. Participants were awarded 10 contact hours via Missouri Substance Abuse Professional Credentialing Board (MSAPCB) and one CEU (10 contact hours) via Missouri State University. Reentry efforts, family relationships, and public safety in communities across the state are strengthened by the best practices and creative solutions shared at these innovative conferences.

33. Department of Corrections continues to support faith-based reentry programs, among many others, as an option for interested offenders

Faith-based organizations in Missouri continue to support offenders in successful reentry. Beauty For Ashes Reentry, located at the Women's Eastern Reception and Diagnostic Correctional Center, provides a Christ centered community that equips prisoners for their restored role in society through mentoring, practical teachings and spiritual disciplines. Beauty for Ashes Reentry is a 12+ month program that offers intensive case management, life skills training and a healthy support system that follows the program members from the prison to the community. Beauty For Ashes Reentry continues to be successful with a recidivism rate of 11.5% over two years.

The Hope Partnership in Southeast Missouri continues to meet with offenders at Southeast Correctional Center in Charleston, Missouri, pre-release in order to plan for post-release services. Offenders are interviewed and screened for this voluntary program which focuses on reentry and substance use recovery programming. Through intensive case management, life skills development, behavioral health support services, employment preparation, education, mentoring, and peer recovery services, offenders are equipped with the support and tools necessary to assimilate successfully back into society.

The Department continues to assist in the planning and coordination of the "Opening Gates, Opening Hearts Annual Faith-based Reentry Conference" in Columbia, Missouri. Over 150 persons from Missouri, Kansas, Colorado and Illinois attended the conference. With a focus on addiction recovery and restorative justice, multiple faith-based organizations came together to share information and best practices in reentry. Faith-based organizations from all over the state were able to share program information, network with others and build relationships, as well as hear from offenders who have benefited from faith-based programming during their reentry journey. Many organizations in the faith-based community partner with the Department of Corrections in providing vital reentry services which assist offenders in successful

reentry. The Mid-Missouri Center for Ministry is responsible for organizing this event with assistance from Department of Corrections staff.

34. Department of Corrections updated Employability Skills programming through multiple mediums of communication involving written resumes, video resumes, and mock interviews

A redesign of the Employability Skills program and curriculum has lead to a renewed focus on pursuing a career, rather than securing a job. While the Employability Skills program assists offenders with career exploration and preparing for life within the workplace, it also seeks to challenge offenders to communicate work skills and abilities through the written and spoken word. By concentrating on written resumes, video resumes, and mock interviews the offender is challenged to utilize multiple mediums of communication with potential employers. All institutions are implementing written resumes, mock interviews, and video resumes.

35. Department of Corrections renewed commitment to an initiative making offenders aware of the impact their actions have on crime victims

The Missouri Department of Corrections Reentry Unit successfully worked with the Division of Human Services Training Academy Administrative Staff to incorporate learning and performance standards while updating an Impact of Crime on Victims curriculum. This multi-module class prompts the offender to recognize the need for accountability in acknowledging the impact their crimes have had upon crime victims. This course, modeled upon a national victims' initiative from the Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center, is designed to heighten offender awareness and the need to take responsibility for the after-effects of their criminal actions. This class is taught to the offender population by a combination of staff, volunteer and offender facilitators.

36. Restorative Justice Efforts

In 2016, the Restorative Justice Program donated 1,651,973 hours to projects with 28,324 offenders working on those efforts. Over 270,042 items were donated to non-profits, charities and victims around the state that include but not limited to: local schools, veterans, veterans' homes, homeless shelters, hospitals, community events, foster care children, food banks and long term care facilities. Items donated have included but not limited to: weighted blankets for autistic patients, sensory/fidget blankets for patients suffering from Alzheimer's and Dementia, hats and scarves for homeless shelters, teaching aids and crocheted hats for the Shaken Baby program through ParentLink.

Restorative Justice continues to donate to the KidSmart organization with handcrafted learning tools. KidSmart provides a Free Store stocked with donations from DOC, private individuals and businesses with items like crayons, markers, and glue to business surplus items such as binders, envelopes and promotional items. KidSmart distributes the supplies through teachers who shop at KidSmart's Free Store once a month. After shopping, teachers distribute the materials directly into the hands of our kids in need. Schools where 70% or more of the children are on the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program, a national poverty index, qualify to shop at KidSmart. 16,761 offenders donated 550,657 hours to this organization during 2016.

Restorative Justice Gardens donated 273,157 pounds, which is nearly 137 tons of fresh produce. The restorative justice gardens program operates without the assistance of taxpayers' money and grows a variety of produce every year at all 21 institutions. In 2016, donated produce went to a collection of local food pantries, shelters, churches, nursing homes and other organizations throughout the state. For many of the local food pantries, shelters and other organizations that receive the produce, the offender grown produce is the only fresh produce that is available. Nursing homes and after school programs also take

donations from the institutions to incorporate the fresh fruit and vegetables into the meals for its residents and students.

37. Department of Corrections developed and implemented an MRP publication

In order to address previous challenges of sharing information across the state on best practices, new and enhanced reentry programming, as well as updated community resources, an MRP FLASH publication was created to increase knowledge in these areas with staff, MRP Steering Team members and community partners. This publication is an electronic document that is distributed on a quarterly basis and provides opportunity for information sharing across the State of Missouri. This quarterly document continues to enhance the knowledge of interested parties to the reentry opportunities and Restorative Justice Projects that are taking place throughout the state.

Challenges

While the Missouri Reentry Process continues to enhance and develop important collaborative relationships within local communities and state agencies, barriers and hurdles remain in the areas of offender reentry. Through the strategic work of the MRP Steering Team, these barriers continue to be reviewed and goals are established on how to create solutions to these obstacles.

1. The current economic climate remains a challenge to all stakeholders. This has been an ongoing challenge for many entities that are involved in the Missouri Reentry Process. The MRP Steering Team must continue to develop goals which address the criminogenic needs of offenders and the economic climate in our state. An offender seeking to reenter society must secure sustainable employment, stable housing, consistent and affordable transportation, as well as fulfill medical and treatment needs. The current economy makes meeting these needs difficult. The MRP Steering Team must continue to work with stakeholders to create opportunities for offenders reentering Missouri communities.
2. The continued inability to share information electronically with our partnering state agencies continues to present barriers. As mentioned in the past, offenders who are under supervision of the Department of Corrections are also receiving or have received services from our partnering agencies. Duplicate efforts continue to occur in the assessment and planning stages when agencies cannot effectively share information. Information sharing is hindered due to advanced technological recourse and databases not being compatible. The MRP Steering team will continue to work on individual strategies to address these challenges.
3. Fiscal challenges continue to be present. Resources available to provide education, vocational training, employability skills training, and necessary substance use treatment, and mental health services to offenders while incarcerated, while on community supervision and after completion of their sentences are vital for successful reentry back into society. The consequences of the economic decline on the Department of Corrections and partnering agencies impacted offender reentry efforts. The MRP Steering team will continue to pursue problem solving techniques to overcome these fiscal barriers in order to sustain and restore various resource and treatment options.

Outcome Measures

An outcome study of offenders released after spending five months or more in a Transitional Housing Unit where intense pre-release services are provided is completed annually by the Department of Corrections Research Unit. The studies have found that since the reentry process began in 2005, the two year recidivism rate of offenders who complete the reentry process in Transitional Housing Units is

37.5% compared to 44.9% by offenders who do not complete the full reentry process. In fiscal year 2016, there were 1,762 offenders released after completing the reentry process in a Transitional Housing Unit. For all offenders who complete the reentry process the average reduction in recidivism is 7.4% after two years. For high risk parole violators who complete the reentry process, the average reduction in recidivism after completing the reentry process is 9.25%. These data again affirm that the services are more impactful for those who have had more challenges to success and indicate that the offenders who are receiving the transitional services are not committing new crimes and are not receiving violations while on parole at the rate of those who are not receiving these services. Since the reentry process began there have been 25,506 offenders released after completing the reentry process. With an average reduction in recidivism of 7.4%, 847 offenders have been diverted from a prison stay because of the reentry process.

The Department is also providing reentry programs outside of the Transitional Housing Units because the number of offenders needing the core reentry programs exceeds the capacity of the Transitional Housing Units. In fiscal year 2016, there were 5,122 offenders who completed at least one core reentry program and the average difference in recidivism after two years between those offenders who completed at least one core program is 5.0%. For offenders who complete two core reentry programs the reduction in recidivism is 8.8% and for those who complete three core reentry programs the reduction is 15.6% and for offenders who complete four core reentry programs the reduction is 23.2%. The core reentry programs comprise of Pathway to Change (PTC), Impact of Crime on Victims (ICVC), Anger Management and Parenting classes.

Goals for 2017

1. The MRP Steering Team will continue to promote membership expansion for a larger representation of MRP partnering agencies and will continue to promote more involvement with Community Partnerships for continued efforts in learning more about community barriers and potential solutions to those barriers.
2. The MRP Steering Team will continue to identify best practices and promote those at the regional and local levels through development of a new reporting process for those entities to share the positive work that is being accomplished through various community groups/organizations.
3. Continue including Local MRP teams, ex-offenders, treatment providers and partnership presentations in the MRP Steering team meetings on a regular basis.
4. Develop models of how Peer Support Specialists could be implemented into the work that is done in both pre and post-release.
5. Update and continue data reviews to ensure the Missouri Reentry Process is successfully reducing recidivism.
6. Continue to further identify barriers to reentry and recommend system, policy and practice reforms to make reentry more successful for individuals returning home from incarceration and/or community supervision with the Missouri Department of Corrections.
7. Through partnerships with Central Region Workforce Development Board and Department of Economic Development, CAT Heavy Equipment Simulators will be purchased through a Community Development Block Grant to allow hands-on training to incarcerated offenders at the Boonville Correctional Center.

8. Implement the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program through assistance from State Technical College of Missouri to tackle recidivism and unemployment through TechHire Grant awarded funding of \$2.7 million.
9. Expand the delivery of the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) to incarcerated offenders in Fulton Reception and Diagnostic Center, Jefferson City Correctional Center, Moberly Correctional Center, Potosi Correctional Center and Tipton Correctional Center. This will bring the total to 8 DOC facilities offering testing for the NCRC.
10. Develop a referral system to enhance employment opportunities through the utilization of services offered by the Division of Workforce Development - Agricultural Employment Services.
11. Pursue new and creative evidenced-based strategies which seek to overcome reentry barriers.
12. Continue to educate offenders and employers on the benefits of utilizing the Federal Bonding Program and Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program as a benefit and incentive to hire ex-offenders so that the number of employers taking advantage of this benefit can increase.
13. In collaboration with State Technical College of Missouri, develop a Life Skills program for offenders prior to release. The goal of the program is to reduce the high-levels of anxiety experienced by offenders immediately prior to release. By exposing them to societal and culture changes pre-release, the reduction of anxiety may prohibit offenders from returning to the previously self-destructive behaviors exhibited before incarceration. Through specifically designed curriculum and videos, stressful events can be addressed before release. Topics include, pumping gas, washing and drying clothes at a laundry mat, opening a checking account, securing insurance (car, home, renters, etc.), social media formats, etc.
14. In conjunction with Division of Human Services - Training Academy, evaluate reentry and restorative justice curriculums to ensure fidelity.
15. Continue to develop opportunities and venues to deliver information to communities on how their work towards collaboration in reentry efforts could save lives. This will be accomplished through presentations, meetings, community committee work, and site visits, to educate community members on the importance of changing cultures and attitudes towards reentry and the benefits of providing opportunities to lessen the number of victims and to create a safer place to reside.
16. Continue to seek out and efficiently utilize federal, state and local resources, thereby enhancing public safety and providing the highest quality of reentry services.
17. Pilot the expansion of the Reentry Intake Panel into three or more institutions, thereby directing and influencing the quality of reentry services offered pre-release.
18. Continue developing collaborative relationships with state agencies, local reentry organizations, and faith-based communities.
19. Enhance reentry initiatives through collaborative work with other states and corrections agencies.

20. Continue to provide technical assistance to other states as they incorporate reentry into their Department of Corrections.
21. Further expand the number of institutions in which offenders are able to obtain the National Career Readiness Certificate prior to release.
22. Continue to enhance difficult discharge case management in concert with Administrative Segregation (Restrictive Housing Unit) enhancement.
23. Increase/enhance our partnerships with Missouri Veterans Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs in order to provide more resources to identify incarcerated veterans and their families.
24. Research and develop partnerships which provide reentry resources and services to incarcerated veterans and their families.
25. Promote Restorative Justice Programming and projects so that Missouri communities are impacted in a positive manner by individuals who are making changes and becoming productive men and women.

Closing

The Missouri Reentry Process (MRP) Steering Team member agencies continue to expand collaborative partnerships to address barriers to successful offender reentry. The MRP Steering team continues to make progress in identifying and examining existing reentry barriers, to expand knowledge in those areas, as well as to dialogue and create possible solutions to identified obstacles. Throughout the past several years, many partnerships have been created, continued, enhanced and /or have moved into higher levels of service. Many of these partnerships continue to expand opportunities each year. As noted in the narrative of this report, there have been numerous accomplishments in reentry throughout 2016. Addressing barriers associated with identified criminogenic needs in order to find more ways to reduce recidivism, lessen the number of victims and create safer communities continues to be among the top priorities of the MRP Steering Team member agencies. The MRP Steering team remains strong and in the upcoming year will expand membership to include more faith-based, housing and veterans representatives in order to address even more statewide and agency work in reentry. Enhancements to the meeting agendas and increased communication among members have significantly impacted the work of the team in a successful manner. There have been presentations from Peer Support Specialists which have prompted a sub-committee formation to review, create and implement ways that Peer Support Specialists can be utilized pre and post-release. Presentations from community and reentry partners have promoted further discussions on how more parenting programs could be implemented into pre-release programming and continue post-release to assist with family reunification efforts. Knowledge has been gained through information delivered from Department of Corrections Division of Offender Rehabilitative Services—Education, Career and Tech so that other team members would increase their knowledge base on what educational and vocational opportunities are available and provided to assist offenders in increasing their skill levels while incarcerated. Appearances from local MRP teams provided information to the MRP Steering team on what current practices are in place to address immediate reentry related needs of individuals in the community, as well as the internal barriers that many local MRP groups are challenged with, including the detrimental effects when funding restrictions occur connected to the Community Reentry Grants. Incorporating ex-offender presentations into the MRP Steering Team meetings has allowed team representatives to see how the work of this team assists in the promotion of opportunities for successful transition. Learning of the struggles and accomplishments of the reentering citizens has

been both motivating and rewarding to the MRP Steering Team representatives. Reviewing criminogenic needs will be an ongoing task for the MRP Steering Team, as well as ensuring that best practices in addressing such needs of individuals returning to communities remain at the forefront of our goals. The MRP Steering Team will continue pursuing expansion of these best practices throughout the state.

The number of collaborative partnerships continues to increase year-to-year. There are many more that provide unique and vital resources for successful reentry than what is included in this report. It is crucial to acknowledge our appreciation to each and every entity that works towards enhancing the Missouri Reentry Process and we will continue to foster those partnerships in order to pursue ongoing strides in promoting public safety.

The next report on progress of the Missouri Reentry Process will be submitted in January 2018.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Director of the Department of Corrections, Anne Precythe, at (573)751-2389.

Missouri Department of Corrections

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